

Adams Gen. Hospital

Memphis Tenn March 12

My Own Beloved Dear Wife

Joy to the my good

wife and hapiness atend the through all the varied Scenes of life I am seated my Dear at the same old stand where I have written so many letters to you with my mind and thoughts resting on you and sweet home and praying silently that you might be hapy and contented and safe from all harm and your virtue and integrity as pure and lovely as it was when I took my leave of you and said farewell and comited you to the care of him who is able to save and suply all your wants and give you comfort untill we meet agane = it is night and all have gone to bed everything around is still and quiet accept the Drunken shout of revelry without and the ocasional groan of anguish and pain within .. of some poor soufering wounded soldier as he lays upon his cot perhaps never to rais therefrom untill it is our painfull task to put a sanitary shirt and drawrs upon him and wrap a sheat around him and cary him over to the Dead house wich is the last duty we have to preform towards them I say it is night and I am thinking most of thee my Own sweet wife .. I am wondering if you are well and hopeing you and the children are well and hapy the day has been pleasant and I have been down to the landing and watched the steamboats as they took thear departure for up the river and oh how I wished that I was on them so that I might be carried nearer to the side of my dear lovely wife but alass my dear I am denied that great joy and must wait with patients the the will of god concerning me I have let my good Gold pen fall my dear wife and it struck on the point and Broak the diamond off so that I will have to buy a new one and borrow another to finish writing this letter

I have not anything new to write about my dear two of my patients died yestarday bothe of them are from Ill and leave wifes and children to mourn there loss one of them came to the ward with Measels and took the typhoid and Pneumonia .. and then too the Erysipplis in his head and died the other alas came to the ward with one of these private and bad diseases wich I am sorry to say many of our sodiers are catching this one had it in its worst stages and finely died and in looking over his Effects I found a letter from his poor wife who had herd of his conduct and my heart bleed with sympathy for the greaf she manifested at the great wrong he had done her but she would forgive him all and beged

that he would remember his marriage vows and return to his former love for her and forsake all others she asked him to think of his child and the disgrace he was bringing upon it then she went on and told him how she loved him and would continue to love him until death notwithstanding the great wrong she had suffered my dear wife it was a most affecting letter indeed and a mans heart must be harder than steel if he could not resist such earnest pleadings from his own wife I think it had an effect upon his mind still he had a disease upon him that he could never get rid of and which hurried him to soon I fear to the judgment bar of God there to give an account of how he had kept the vows made to his wife when he took her from her fathers care into his own oh my dear I thought of you while I read that letter and how thankful I was that God had kept me from wronging my good wife in that way and bringing such agony and sorrow upon her and breaking her ~~sens~~ sensitive and loving heart Oh my dear this is one of the many vices and great sins that our soldiers many of them are given to and which I have to guard against but thank God Dear Elizabeth the love and respect and regard I have for you keeps me from being tempted and I never have the least desire to indulge in anything that is wrong I very seldom leave the Hospital except to take a run for air each day and to go to church and my evenings are either spent reading or writing to friends or loved ones and very often I spend them with my good friend Mary talking of you and telling over our amusements in the by gone days I shall miss Mrs Mannon when she leaves which will be soon she is such good company and has always been as kind as a sister to me Miss Powell another particular friend of mine left for home to day she got a dispatch from home stating her brother had returned from the army and laying dangerously sick and wanted to see her she used to bake me a pie twice a week and send it to me by Mrs Messeroll so I will miss my pie as well as miss my kind friend it is not very healthy here at present most of the boys are complaining and many are dying two or three of the women are sick and the hospital looks more sad and cheerless than usual still kind providence blesses your husband with health that is good except Rheumatism that troubles me quiet often I wish my dear wife that I could write so as to give you a clear and right Idea of how everything looked and really was down here so much suffering so much wickedness and sin it really seems that most all have forgotten that there is a God and that they must be judged some day of the deeds done in the body but I will stop writing for

the present and wait until your next arrives so I will wish you good night and may sweet angels guard you while you sleep and when you wake may you feel how good and kind God is to you so that you may sing praises to him from the innermost depths of your soul and be comforted by the influence of his holy spirit applied to your sad and lonely heart a

kiss for you and then good night my dearest and the best of wives  March 13

My Dear Elizabeth My Better Half Yours of March 6 came duly to hand with Sarah's likeness all right but at first sight I thought it was a picture of your own sweet self but was sadly disappointed when I turned it over

you say Darling wife that you have not received a letter from me since the 19 of Feb I cannot tell why you don't receive them for in looking over my act with you I find that this is the fourth letter written to you since then .. My poor sweet wife you do indeed have trouble for I see that Marshall has been sick so you had to be up with him night and day and you all alone it is really too bad wife and God knows how I feel about it you tell me not to fret or feel bad about you how can I help it darling my dear boy sick and my poor wife all alone and almost tired out taking care of him my dear wife I love you all too well not to feel uneasy while things and matters at home are as they are oh how I wish this cursed war was ended so that I could again take my place by your side to guide you and cheer you and relieve you of many of the cares and duties you have to performe you will please thank my kind friends and neighbors the Cohoones and Wheelers Especially that good kind Julia Cohoone for their kindness and favors towards you tell them I will strike so much the harder to reach the black hearts of traitors while they take care of my dear wife and children at home I have been sending you quiet a number of papers and magazines lately you do not say whether you have received any lately or not you will please let me know if you get any or not for if not you don't get them I will quit sending March 15 I will try and finish this letter you will perceive that I have been three days about it but I have had so much to attend to and my letter so long that I could not finish it sooner Arthur came to see me yesterday he gave me 2 dol in silver for pocket peace and I find that it is good for sore eyes to look at specie Give my love to all my friends and rest assured that I bestow upon you more than it do appear all the rest tell Miss Sarah she will not make much by delaying so long to write I have struck her off from my list of correspondents

Gormans rigt has reenlisted but he has not a thousand kisses my dear wife from Thos
Hannah